GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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© Byrd Antarctic Expedition

MIDNIGHT SUN CAUSES HARD WEAR FOR COLORS OF ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS

"Long may it wave" applies to a flag's Antarctic career, for prolonged daylight during the polar summer makes extra flag-waving hours before sunset comes as signal to strike colors. Then the long winter night gives the flag a rest. There are actually only 121 days in the Antarctic year, as a flag would reckon time—by sunsets. This worn flag on the radio tower of Little America was lowered just before Admiral Byrd (right) left there in 1935. The Stars and Stripes set forth for the Antarctic again last year, when the United States was among the nations launching South Polar expeditions (Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Turkish Earthquake Brings Fresh Tragedy to Historic Scene

EARTHQUAKE warnings are still posted along the northern sector of Anatolia, in Turkey's Asiatic east. The devastating shocks that affected more than a half-million people at the end of last year have been traced by science to disturbances 16 miles beneath the earth's surface. A cataclysm at such subterranean depths, scientists say, may require six months to settle completely.

The earthquake-rocked region is a deep crescent of northeastern Turkey, stretching upward into the Anatolian plateau from the Black Sea shores, and on the east cutting across Turkish Armenia. In the fertile land beside the Black Sea is grown three-fourths of the nation's chief export—the distinctive small-leaf tobacco of Turkish blends. On the bleak wind-swept plateau lie treeless stretches of land worn bare by succeeding generations not merely of people, but even of civilizations. There are no cities with as many as 40,000 people; yet a list of towns reporting casualties reads like a review of the past 3,900 years of history.

Vital New Railway Where Caesar Came, Saw, and Conquered

Only in September, 1939, was the final steel link completed in a railroad across the region, which offers transportation from the Bosporus in the west, beside Istanbul (Constantinople), all the way across Turkey to the Soviet port of Baku on the Caspian Sea. The new link was finished between Erzincan and Erzurum. The east-west line connects near Sivas with a railway running north to the leading Turkish Black Sea port, Samsun.

The region is haunted by associations with some of civilization's earliest stories, and through it Caesar's ghost walks again. There the ancient Amazons had their kingdom of warrior women. Sinop beside the sea was the birthplace of a philosopher who gave "cynic" its modern meaning of disillusion—Diogenes, who asserted that he needed a lantern's light even at midday to see an honest man. On the coast delighted Romans found a small red fruit which they introduced into Europe under the name that became "cherry," in honor of Cerasos, now Giresun, a filbert port. Zile, on the railroad to Samsun, was the battlefield from which victorious Caesar turned to phrase his terse report to the Senate in Rome with telegraphic brevity: "Veni, vidi, vici." The eastern seaport of Trabzon (Trebizond) is the friendly Trapezus of which Greek students read in Xenophon's account of 10,000 Greek soldiers retreating from Persia about 400 B.C.

A 20th century hairpin-turn in the course of history was marked some distance inland at Sivas. There the modern Turkish nation in 1919 emerged from the old Ottoman Empire's hollow shell, at the Second National Congress.

Capital City of Hittite Kings Known to Moses

With some 35,000 people, Sivas is the largest city of the region. In Roman times, as Sebastia, it was one of the largest in all Asia Minor. The Turks of the Middle Ages made it the art capital of their Seljuk Empire, around which swept successive tides of invading Crusaders; much of this decorative Moslem art still survives. At the close of the 14th century, Sivas saw invasion from the east, and 4,000 of its defenders were buried alive by the conquering Mongol, Tamerlane.

Samsun, with 33,000 inhabitants, is the largest and most important of Turkey's Black Sea ports. Twenty years ago it took part in that spectacular turning of the population tide, when Turkey expelled the Greeks, whose ancestors had been in Asia Minor since Greeks first camped there to besiege ancient Troy. Sam-

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Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

NATURE'S VIOLENCE DESTROYS TURKISH HOMES, BUT BUILDS THEM ALSO

The same restless magma of the earth's deep interior, to which scientists attribute the recent earthquake in Anatolia, once boiled over from volcanic Erciyas Dagi (Mount Argaeus) and created one of Asia Minor's strangest curiosities—the cone-shaped dwellings of the Cappadocians. Capstones of hard lava from the volcano furnished protection while wind and river gnawed at the countryside around Mount Argaeus; the protected spots survived as pointed columns rising above the general level of the land. Cappadocia was among the regions to which St. Peter traveled, making converts, in the early days of Christianity. Once homes and monasteries, most of the cone-dwellings now are storehouses or dovecotes (Bulletin No. 1).

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Important Finds Reward 1939 Explorers

THAT the world still holds interesting rewards for the explorer was demonstrated in 1939 by the results of numerous explorations and geographic expeditions.

One of the outstanding finds of the year was made by an expedition sponsored jointly by the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution. In Vera Cruz State, Mexico, the expedition led by Matthew W. Stirling unearthed a stone bearing a date equivalent to November 4, 291 B. C., the earliest recorded date yet discovered in the Western Hemisphere. At the same site, near the village of Tres Zapotes, the expedition dug up a colossal sculptured head of stone, weighing more than 10 tons. Archeologists attach importance to these finds, west of other known Maya sites, as indicating a possible source of Maya culture.

Kangaroos that climb trees and rats three feet long were among the specimens brought back from New Guinea by an expedition headed by Richard Archbold collaborating with the American Museum of Natural History. Many of the 6,000 plants and 350 mammals collected are believed to be new to science.

Youngest Lake in the World Found in U. S. S. R.

Also in New Guinea (illustration, next page) Miss Evelyn Cheesman of London, as a result of 18 months' exploration on the islands of Waigeu and Japen, captured a tree kangaroo, a cuscus opossum, tree frogs, "periscope" grasshoppers, and flies with stalked eyes.

A pair of viscachas, mice about two hundred times the size of the common variety, were among the 241 specimens brought to the United States from South America by Dr. William M. Mann, Director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C. He also captured a capybara, a water rat weighing 100 pounds, and a tribe of nutrias (water rodents).

Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, examined the bones of extinct animals at Irkutsk in Siberia. His trip, however, was more to study skeletal remains of the Neanderthal man of about 150,000 years ago.

Ants two inches long and two waterfalls ten times the height of Niagra were reported among the finds in the Mount Roraima region of British Guiana and Venezuela by Dr. Paul A. Zahl, of Union College.

Dr. Leonard P. Schultz, of the Smithsonian Institution, who explored the Phoenix Islands in the Pacific, believes his collection of lizards, birds, curious insects, and 20,000 fish specimens contains many new to science. Included were several tridacna, clamlike creatures that attain a length of three feet and weigh up to 600 pounds.

The youngest lake in the world, Lake Sarez in Soviet Central Asia, was explored by Russian scientists. This lake was caused by a mountainside toppling from one of the Pamir peaks damming the Murgab River and forming the lake 44 miles long, a mile wide, and 1,800 feet deep.

About 2,000 old manuscripts and scrolls were discovered by Quentin Roosevelt, grandson of the former president, who explored the Chinese interior and Tibet in search for relics of the ancient Nashi tribes.

In Sumatra's jungles George Vanderbilt discovered a serinus, a canarylike bird long believed extinct.

Atlantic's Deepest Hole and Pacific Submarine Peaks

The deepest hole in the Atlantic was discovered when the cruiser *Milwaukee* in February measured 28,680 feet, or a depth of nearly 5½ miles, east of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola (Haiti). Two 9,000-foot mountain peaks rising from the bottom of the north Pacific, 2,000 feet beneath the sea's surface, were also discovered. The latter discovery was made by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, now surveying the waters around the Aleutian Islands.

Rising far above mountain ascents were the rubber sounding balloons which reached heights of 14 to 16½ miles over Beltsville, Maryland. They carried robot "observers" which made mechanical "readings" of the concentrations of ozone at varying altitudes and automatically radioed them to a ground station. Six baloons, attached in tandem, carried the robots. This was a National Geographic Society-National Bureau of Standards project.

Studies of the Arctic Ocean were continued in 1939 by the Russian icebreaker *Syedoff*. Caught in the ice when her propeller was smashed in October, 1937, the ship has since drifted with the ice more than 2,750 miles and in 1939 established a record by reaching a point farther north than that attained by any other vessel on record—within approximately 250 miles of the pole. Continuous records made by observers aboard show the speed and direction of ice flow to be due primarily to wind; that a warm current flows deep in the Arctic Ocean; and that the water teems with small animal and vegetable organisms used as food by higher forms of life.

In May the British ship, *Discovery II*, returned to London after twenty months spent in

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sun's cigarette and tobacco factory had an output of more than four million pounds a year. Much of the tobacco leaf exported finds its way into the United States.

Some 200 miles southeast of Samsun is the site of Erzincan, a town of more than 20,000 people, now reported destroyed. On the last lap of the Samsun-Erzurum railroad, it had new schools, hospitals, slaughterhouse, and serum institute. Cotton and silk mills employed the people; another industry made copper utensils.

Almost due west from Erzincan stands the village of Yozgat, known to Bible students and archeologists as the nearest to the ruins of the ancient Hittite capital city Bogazkoy, or Hattushash. With a high civilization well under way about 1940 B.C., the prosperous Hittites abolished capital punishment and kept business records of their international trade, with "carbon copy" duplicates on clay tablets. Moses considered leading the Israelites from Egypt into their land. The Hittites jogged civilization out of the Bronze Age into the Iron Age; from Anatolian mines they launched iron on its way from jewelry to machinery and weapons.

At Amasya, once the capital of the Roman colony of Pontus, the first globe-trotting geographer was born—Strabo, the Marco Polo of the pre-Christian era.

The highlands are made productive by herds of sheep and goats, from which Anatolian commerce derives its excellent wool, mohair, and leather.

Note: Descriptions and photographs of places in Anatolia appear in the following: "Where Early Christians Lived in Cones of Rock," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1939; "The Transformation of Turkey," January, 1939; "Looking In on New Turkey," April, 1932; and "Turkey Goes to School," January, 1929.

These places can be found on The Society's wall map of the Bible Lands and the Cradle of Western Civilization, a supplement to the December, 1938, issue of the *Geographic*. Separate copies are available at 75c (paper) and $1.00 (linen).

Bulletin No. 1, January 22, 1940.

Photograph by Maynard Owen Williams

THE HITTITE EAGLE LOST A HEAD, FOUND A NEW CAREER

The double-headed eagle as a symbol of authority traveled from Asia Minor, where this example was carved at Huyuk 3,500 years ago, to the more modern empires of Czarist Russia and Austria. When the eagle began to perch on United States coins, however, one head was lopped off.

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South Tyrol, Italy's Teutonic Province

TO BE or not to be Germans is the question which some 200,000 German-speaking inhabitants of Italy have just answered. They were required to choose allegiance to the red, white, and green of Italy's flag or a transfer to the red, black, and yellow of the German Reich by the beginning of this year. Those who decided on Reich citizenship are being moved over the border into German territory.

This adjustment of the German-speaking minority in northern Italy climaxes a twenty-year-old problem of a little "foreign country" within the Italian kingdom. It was a problem that Italy inherited with land acquired from Austria—the ruggedly picturesque mountain region that was German South Tyrol under Austria. Italy substituted the regional name Alto Adige (Upper Adige), because of the upper valley of the Adige river cutting through the Alpine ranges.

Holds Vital Brenner Pass

The Italian South Tyrol is set high in the Alps of north-central Italy along the southwest border of former Austria. It is a highly strategic region which was a part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire before the 1919 Treaty of St. Germain.

It is famed for its spectacular scenic beauty. It includes the northern tip of the famous Lake of Garda (illustration, next page). Through it runs the historic and economically vital route that leads across the Brenner Pass into Central Europe, linking the Italian peninsula with the heart of the continent.

It was to give Italy a protected position on this strategic pass that the peace treaty in 1919 moved the Italian frontier more than 200 miles northward. The shift gathered into Italy both the Italian-inhabited province of Trento, whose former inclusion in Austria had long been contested by Italy, and the German-speaking South Tyrol, now known as the province of Bolzano. The two provinces now comprise the Department of Venezia Tridentina, with an area of 5,252 square miles.

The Bolzano province includes more than half of the land which then changed flags. In it are concentrated Italy's 200,000 German-speaking inhabitants.

German Speech and Architecture Endured in Italy

During the World War, when this region was under Austrian rule, the inhabitants of South Tyrol fought against Italy in some of the bloodiest battles of the conflict. When the Italians advanced into Austrian territory, both sides had to struggle against nature itself, making their precarious way along precipitous slopes and over icy mountain paths. Whole towns were wiped out by fighting while the 1917-18 battlelines were drawn along the old Italian frontier.

Since acquiring the Tyrolean area, the Italian government has made vigorous efforts to Italianize its people. Italian was made the official language for all public services. It was required on public signs, catalogues, time-tables, menus, maps, postcards—even tombstones. Place names were changed from German to Italian, The word "Tyrol" was strictly forbidden, "Bolzano" taking its place.

Yet there is still a striking difference between the Teutonic and Latin sections. Traveling from Trento northward into Bolzano, one enters a land distinctly German in architecture, speech and habits.

Note: Scattered references and some photographs of the Trento-Bolzano region are found in "Hunting Castles in Italy," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1935; "Man and Nature Paint Italian Scenes in Prodigal Colors" (color insert), April, 1928; "Frontier Cities of Italy," June, 1915; and "Austro-Italian Mountain Frontiers," April, 1915.

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Antarctic waters. Studies were made of the great whales and the small shrimplike marine creatures, "krill," on which many whales feed.

Four Nations Active in Pushing Antarctic Claims

Germany sent a ship to the southern polar regions with two planes which explored a large area of Antarctica. Flags were dropped to mark the boundaries of Germany's claim, which lies within territory claimed earlier by Norway. Argentina made claim to sections previously declared by Great Britain and the United States to be within their areas of interest.

A government-financed Antarctic expedition now bound for Antarctica under Rear Admiral Byrd has been instructed by Congress to investigate territorial claims of the United States in Antarctica and to survey natural resources. To this end the expedition includes a large scientific staff with full laboratory equipment, and more than 5,000 items of other equipment.

Note: Descriptions of some of the areas explored during 1939 are found in "Discovering the New World's Oldest Dated Work of Man," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1939; "My Four Antarctic Expeditions," July, 1939; "Frozen Fragments of American History," May, 1939; "Over the Roof of Our Continent," July, 1938; "My Flight Across Antarctica," July, 1936; "Conquest of Mount Crillon," March, 1935; "Aerial Conquest of Everest," August, 1933; "Mapping the Antarctic from the Air," October, 1932; "Through Brazil to the Summit of Mount Roraima," November, 1930; "Conquest of Antarctica by Air," August, 1930; and "Into Primeval Papua by Seaplane," September, 1929.

Bulletin No. 2, January 22, 1940.

Photograph by Alfred Gibson

HIS LITTLE LAND HAS LARGE UNEXPLORED SECTIONS

Fierce-looking as this New Guinea native may be, it is not the ferocity of the people that has delayed exploration. In spite of sword and clamshell nose pin and savage feather headdress, he is in everyday life a bus driver in Port Moresby. But the jungle has been a barrier keeping the heart of New Guinea untouched, until airplanes gave explorers an Open Sesame.

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Chemistry Contributed New Ideas and Products in 1939

TWO aspects of new knowledge in the chemical field ran a neck and neck race in 1939—discovery in the chemical laboratories and practical application of chemistry to the problems of everyday life.

Often in the limelight during the year were the three I's which modern chemistry has added to the basic chemical A B C's—isotopes, isobars, and isomers. All three are variants of the atom. The differences occur in weight, electrical charge, or internal structure. Isotopes are atoms with the same internal structure and electrical charge, but with different weights; about 240 of them have been found in nature, and almost 300 have been artificially created by bombarding atoms in cyclotrons. The second kind of atom variant, the isobar, has the same weight as the normal atom but has a different electrical charge, so that it produces a different chemical reaction; there are 44 isobars known and 10 others for which scientists are making an active search. The third and most recently discovered variant is the isomer, identical in weight and electrical charge but different in internal structure.

More "Heavyweight" and "Lightweight" Atoms Found

Dr. J. R. B. Rajam, Louvain University, Belgium, has reported this year that isomers have been found for 14 of the 92 generally recognized elements.

New isotopes (varying from the regular atom in weight only) discovered during the past year have given science knowledge of "heavyweight" and "lightweight" versions of such old chemical stand-bys as carbon and helium. Dr. Harold C. Urey, Columbia University, captured a carbon isotope and studied the first heavy carbon atoms ever isolated. The practical value of separating this isotope from regular carbon lies in the fact that carbon is present in all foods (especially carbohydrates), and it is therefore of inestimable value in the process of body-building. Ordinarily, carbon in one food cannot be traced through digestive processes because it cannot be distinguished from that in other foods also eaten; but heavy carbon atoms in food fed to animals make it possible to trace the "tagged" heavy atoms throughout the body during an entire experiment.

Balancing Dr. Urey's discovery in the heavyweight field of isotopes, Dr. L. W. Alvarez and Robert Cornog, University of California, found a featherweight helium atom existing independently in nature. They called this lightweight substance helium 3. It has a lifting power 95.7 per cent as great as that of hydrogen. This element would be wonderful for use in balloons, but it is too rare to be of practical value. The discoverers estimated that only one two-millionth of the minute quantity of regular helium present in the atmosphere is of the light variety.

Processes for New Steels and Plastics

Modern chemists are budget balancers by nature, constantly endeavoring to create less expensive but equally satisfactory substitutes for standard products. Therefore synthetic rubber exercises a siren-like charm on the profession. Waste gases of the petroleum industry were utilized in a new process to make inexpensive artificial rubber by Dr. J. C. Morrell and his associates in Chicago.

Dr. H. B. Hass, Purdue University, reported that two very cheap and powerful explosives can be made from the natural gases, methane (marsh gas) and ethane. These gases acquire their explosive power from a combination with nitrogen. This discovery can free the manufacturers of explosives from their dependence on glycerol (glycerin). The latter might become difficult to obtain because of a great industrial demand for it, especially in the manufacture of plastics,

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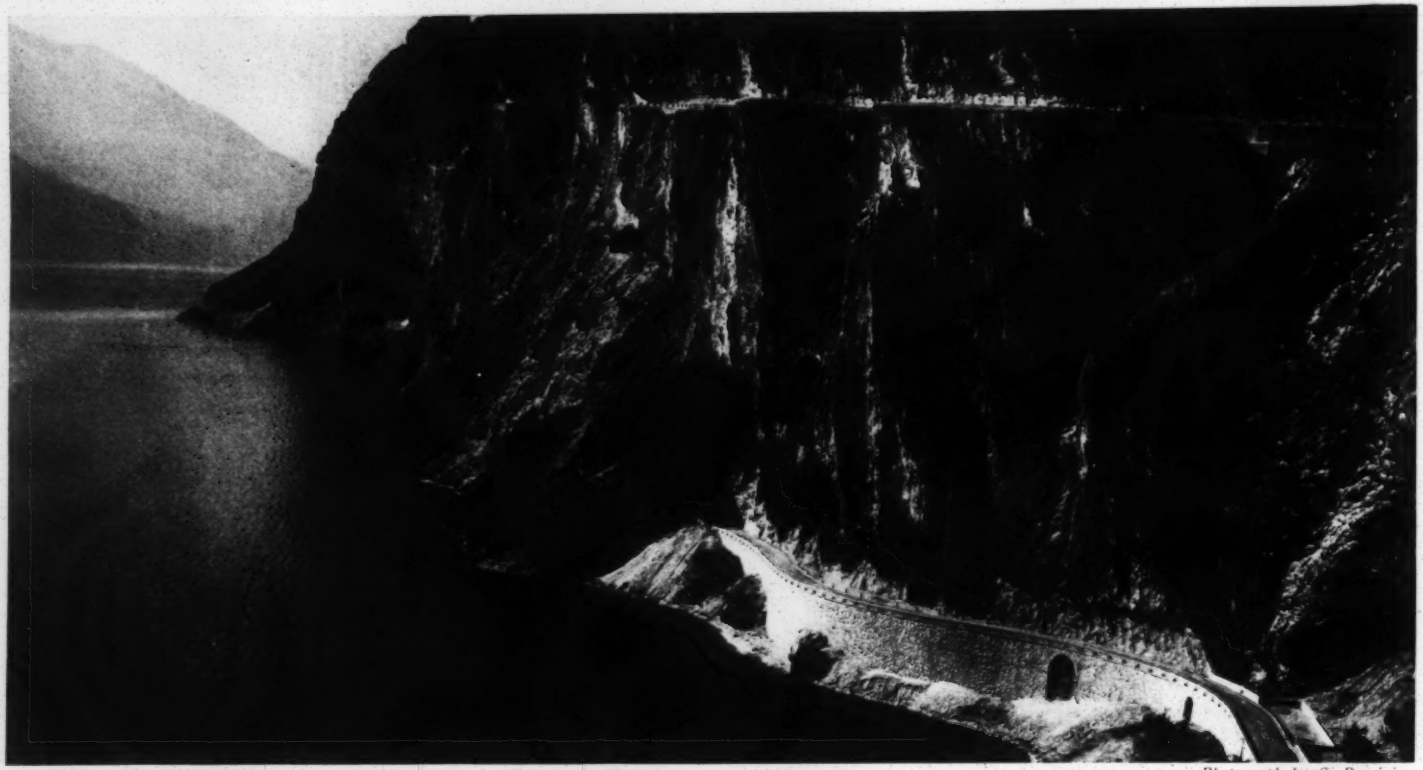

Photograph by S. Pozzini

IN ITALY'S BILINGUAL NORTH, A HIGH ROAD AND A LOW ROAD MARK A PARTING OF THE WAYS

These upstairs and downstairs highways cling to the brink of northern Lake of Garda's west shore, where a 1919 boundary shift brought German-speaking Austrians under Italian domination. This mile-high mountain, the Rocchetta, was previously in Austria, and its rocky cliffs echoed with the bombardment of Italian invasion. The lower highway, diving frequently into tunnels (center and left), emerges on its southward way to the lakeside towns of Limone and Salo. The second-story ribbon of highway is the famous Ponale Road, which winds around the Rocchetta westward past magnificent mountain scenes to the Lake of Ledro.

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"Golden Rock" of St. Eustatius: First Friend of Young U. S.

A FRIEND indeed who had been a friend in Uncle Sam's need more than 160 years ago was acknowledged recently. Presentation of a bronze plaque to the island of St. Eustatius, in the Netherlands West Indies, added a postscript to the first chapter in United States history. The U. S. Navy training ship *Wyoming* carried the plaque to the island, to commemorate the first salute to a vessel by which a foreign country recognized the United States flag.

The *Wyoming*, entering the roadstead of the island's only town and port, found a drowsy Caribbean island whose meager area of seven square miles is dominated by a pair of cone-shaped volcanic peaks; its inhabitants, fewer than 1,500, cultivate yams and cotton for export in small quantities.

Profitable Neutrality Brought World Shipping

But on November 16, 1776, when the brig o' war *Andrea Doria* from Baltimore dropped anchor there, St. Eustatius was the trade center of the Indies. Its population was double the present figure. Warehouses lined its shores, and sailing ships by the hundred crowded into its harbor. The *Andrea Doria*, flying the brand-new red, white, and blue American banner of thirteen stripes and a Union Jack, created a commotion in the busy port. Would the Dutch governor of St. Eustatius defy the powerful British and recognize the flag of colonies in the throes of a revolution? The stout little cannons of Fort Orange (illustration, next page) fired an eleven-gun salute, and the echoes reverberated through the history of two hemispheres.

The port of St. Eustatius, guarded by Fort Orange and known as Orange Town, for the duration of the American Revolution served as a base of supplies for the struggling colonies. Numerous American privateers, convoyed by Dutch vessels, left the port with military equipment from the Netherlands to be used in the conflict. The island of St. Eustatius itself produced sugar cane, molasses, coffee, and tobacco, and starch-rich cassava to nourish the Revolutionists, and quantities of cotton and indigo dye for clothing. To augment the yield of its fertile fields, the island received shipments of tropical products from all the other West Indies, and transshipped them to foreign markets. Vessels from the infant nation of the United States to the north brought rice from the Carolinas, fish from the northern colonies, wood, turpentine, and iron to exchange for war supplies.

As a neutral free port, Orange Town attracted almost 2,000 ships in 1776. Old records for 1779 estimate that 3,500 vessels cleared the port. From many nations they came to trade, or to take on water and fresh food. In the streets of the town, rough chests of tea and bales of cotton served merchants as impromptu desks, while a chorus of bids and counter-bids rose in a half-dozen competing tongues.

The Twenty-Million-Dollar Auction Sale

When the British closed the port of Boston in 1774, England's trade with the American colonies had suffered a lull; the Revolution brought it to a virtual standstill. Both British and Americans, however, could trade with St. Eustatius, through which some of the old exchange of wares continued. There were stories of secret shipments of contraband to the American colonies from sympathetic France, via St. Eustatius. The genial Dutch hosts to this varied commerce grew so wealthy that their island came to be called the "Golden Rock."

The Golden Age of St. Eustatius, however, lasted only five years. In 1781

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and also because the animal fats and vegetable oils from which it has been made may be valuable as food. The importance of glycerin gives practical value to another chemical advance of 1939—the process for making glycerin from propylene, a gas which had previously been a waste by-product in the manufacture of gasoline The process was developed by chemists in Emeryville, California.

Plated silver can now shine brighter than ever as a result of the discovery made by Dr. B. Egeberg and N. E. Promisel, Meriden, Connecticut; they used compounds of thiourea and methylamine in the plating process as a substitute for carbon disulphide, which has been in general use for almost a century.

Bachite, a new stainless steel invented by O. H. Bach, New York City, is reported to be lighter and stronger than the metal now in use; the new compound can be made in colors, at a cost far below current prices on comparable materials.

Prof. R. S. Williams, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, also experimented with stainless steel and discovered that the addition of a little silver prevents sea water from corroding the alloy.

A metallic compound, almost as hard as diamonds, was devised by P. M. McKenna, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The metal has immediate application in machining Monel metal and other corrosion-resistant alloys.

Sugar cane bagasse was turned into a durable plastic by the U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists in their By-Products Laboratory, Ames, Iowa. They stated that this material could be manufactured for less than half the cost of the cheapest plastic now available.

Ford Motor Company scientists made a textile from soybeans. This is believed to be the first textile filament spun from a protein of vegetable origin.

Note: See also "Chemists Make a New World," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1939.

Bulletin No. 4, January 22, 1940.

Photograph by Willard R. Culver

EACH YEAR ADDS TO CELLULOID'S SYNTHETIC CHILDREN—THE PLASTICS

In 1868 the height of inventiveness was celluloid, an imitation ivory which was the first plastic. Since then chemists have produced plastics that imitate amber, tortoise shell, jade, crystal, and any other semi-precious material. Imitation onyx by the yard is provided in this plastic sheet from which the workman cuts mirror backs. The completed backs, lifted from the sheet, lie on a tray before him. This year's contribution was the discovery of a process for making synthetic glycerin, which is in demand for the manufacture of plastics.

England declared war on the Dutch mother country, and the island was itself embroiled with the nation against which it had been aiding and abetting the rebellious American colonies. In February of that year a British fleet under Admiral George Rodney surrounded the crowded roadstead of St. Eustatius and captured the island with all its rich booty of supplies and ships. One estimate counted two dozen American vessels among his catch. Confiscating the contents of all warehouses, shops, and boats, Rodney sold all merchandise outright and reaped a financial harvest estimated at from fifteen to twenty million dollars. The auction of confiscated wares at Orange Town went down in West Indian history as the most spectacular on record. With the goods he seized, Rodney sold also the future of St. Eustatius; the island's trade never recovered from this fatal blow.

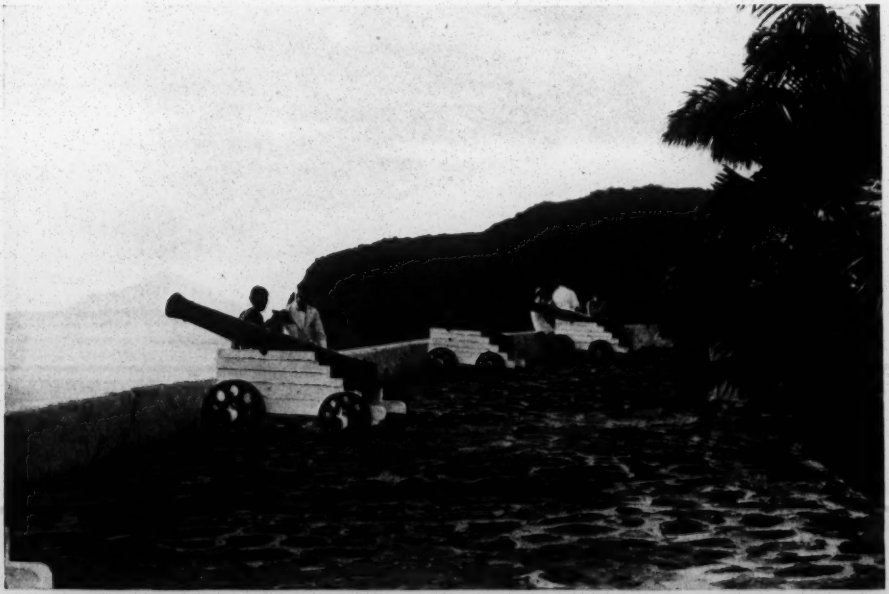
Now the island is a dependency of the Netherlands colony of Curaçao, administered by an official called the "Gezaghebber." Just as the name of St. Christopher has been abbreviated to St. Kitts, St. Eustatius is now familiarly known as Statia. English is as generally spoken there as Dutch. In the early 17th century, both England and France had been rivals to The Netherlands in claims for the island. The present Netherlands authority has been undisputed only since 1816.

Above the cobbled streets of Orange Town, old Fort Orange is still on guard. The fort stands on the brink of a steep cliff, where the island's rocky side drops sheer into the ocean. Chief menace of the fort today is the luxuriant acacia and the stubborn cactus, although the quaint guns face defiantly out to sea.

Note: See "Hunting Tropical Plants in the Caribbean," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1934; and "The Story of the American Flag," October, 1917.

See also The Society's new wall map of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies, on which St. Eustatius may be located. The map was released as a supplement to the December, 1939, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*. Unfolded copies may be obtained at 50c (paper) and 75c (linen).

Bulletin No. 5, January 22, 1940.



Photograph by H. F. Loomis

FIRST FRIENDLY GUNS THE UNITED STATES ENCOUNTERED WERE DUTCH

Instead of the full number of a regular national salute, the guns of Fort Orange on St. Eustatius fired only eleven guns in salute to the American flag when it first entered the island's harbor. But the short-changing was insignificant beside the fact that the salute was the very first accorded to the United States by a foreign country—in this case, the neutral Netherlands. Five years after this friendly gesture, however, England turned her wrath from the newly independent colonies to St. Eustatius, and crushed the island's commerce.